

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: NPT AND RADIO LIBERTY

REF.: MADRID 1247

1. THE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO LINK THE QUESTION OF SPAIN'S ADHERENCE TO THE NPT WITH THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE. QUITE APART FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO QUESTIONS, THE APPROACH OF THE RL LEASE EXPIRATION WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE UNRELATED QUESTIONS IN THE RL DISCUSSIONS. ALSO, THE EVENTUAL URGENCY THAT MIGHT ARISE REGARDING SPAIN'S POSITION ON THE NPT COULD RESULT

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FROM CONGRESSIONAL RATHER THAN EXECUTIVE DECISIONS.

2. IN LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR MEETING WITH AREILZA:

-- WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO LINK THESE TWO MATTERS AND WISH TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY ON THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE.

-- THE QUESTION OF SPAIN'S ADHERENCE TO THE NPT IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER WITH ITS OWN IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS.

-- THE US SUGGESTION THAT SPAIN REVIEW ITS POSITION WAS NOT MEANT AS PRESSURE OR INTERFERENCE REGARDING SPANISH DECISIONS, BUT RATHER AS A REMINDER BETWEEN FRIENDS THAT SPAIN MIGHT BE ABLE TO GAIN CERTAIN POLITICAL ADVANTAGES BY ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH AN ENDEAVOR THAT HAS BROAD EUROPEAN AND US SUPPORT.

-- WE ALSO FOUND IT PRUDENT TO INFORM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT OF CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND IN THE CONGRESS REGARDING U.S. NUCLEAR EXPORTS ESPECIALLY WHEN FINANCED BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

-- WE INTEND TO MAKE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CASE BEFORE THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEW TREATY AS A CAREFULLY-BALANCED PACKAGE WHICH SHOULD BE APPROVED ON ITS MERITS, BUT WE BOTH SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE INCREASING INTEREST IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE CONCERNING THE BROADEST ADHERENCE TO THE NPT.
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